CHAPTER XI.—ORPHANS

180. *General.*—The Collector shall be in time of famine the temporary guardian of children who are found deserted in his district. His responsibility for the care of them shall continue until three months after the close of the famine, up to which time he shall continue to make efforts to discover the natural protectors of the children or, failing these, respectable persons of the same religion who are willing to adopt them and to submit to any enquiries regarding their condition that the Collector may desire to institute, and who satisfy the Collector that they have the means to support them.

181. *Relief of deserted children.*—Deserted children for whom the Collector is temporarily responsible shall, if old enough, be sent to a suitable relief work; if they are too young to work, arrangements shall be made for relieving them in a kitchen or poor-house until they can be disposed of under section 182.

182. *Disposal of deserted children.*—(*a*) Deserted children relieved in a kitchen or poor-house may be made over (i) to any person mentioned in section 180; or failing these (ii) to any other suitable persons resident in the same province; or failing these (iii) to any private orphanage; or failing this (iv) to a State orphanage.

(*b*) Deserted children shall not be made over to persons and institutions of different religions until all efforts to find persons and institutions of their own religion willing to take charge of them have failed.

183. *Private orphanages.*—The following rules shall be applicable to all aided or unaided private orphanages to which the Collector permits famine orphans to be admitted:—

(*a*) If called upon, the manager shall satisfy the Collector, before receiving charge of the child, that there is a reasonable prospect of his being able to maintain him until he reaches the age of 18 years.

(*b*) The manager shall maintain a register in Form 36 of all famine orphans admitted and shall submit copies of the register monthly to the Collector.

(*c*) Free access to the children shall at all times be given to the Collector and to persons claiming as parents or relatives to remove the children.

(*d*) In the event of the parentage or relationship being, in the opinion of the Collector, satisfactorily established, the children shall be made over to such persons.

184. *State orphanages.*—The following procedure shall be adopted in State famine orphanages:—

(*a*) Separate accommodation, which may conveniently be attached to poor-houses, shall be provided for orphans at such places as the Collector may direct.

(*b*) If orphans are provided for in poor-houses, they shall be kept separate from the other inmates and shall be treated and accounted for as if they were in a separate orphanage.

(*c*) The rules for the management of poor-houses shall be applied, as far as possible, to orphanages.

(*d*) A register in Form 36 shall be kept of all children relieved in State orphanages.

(*e*) Children who within three months of the close of relief operations have been neither claimed nor adopted may be sent, with the approval of Government, to any public institution for the care of destitute children.

(*f*) Every orphanage shall be periodically inspected by a non-official committee comprising gentlemen of different religions.